

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----035416 241621Z /43

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3190

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

SECRET LAGOS 9621

EXDIS

FROM MOOSE AND MCHENRY

FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARMED FORCES

REF: (A) STATE 201250, (B) PRETORIA 4247

1. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT WE SHOULD NOT PROVIDE THE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH THE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION THEY HAVE REQUESTED. AND WE CONCUR WITH THE REASONING EXPRESSED IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF REFTEL A.

2. DEPARTMENT AND PRETORIA MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER LETTING SADF KNOW, IN ADDITION TO POINTS MADE IN REFTEL A, THAT:

A) THE U.S. DOES NOT AGREE WITH MUCH OF THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE POLITICAL CONDITIONS THAT EXIST NOW OR WILL OBTAIN IN
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SOUTHERN AFRICA (E.G. THAT RHODESIA IS BOUND TO BECOME "MILITANTLY COMMUNIST").

B) MOREOVER, WE DISAGREE THAT THE CUBANS AND ANGOLANS NECESSARILY POSE A DIRECT MILITARY THREAT TO NAMIBIA. THERE ARE COGENT INTERNATIONAL REASONS THAT MILITATE AGAINST THEIR INTERVENING MILITARILY IN AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

C) A THREAT AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE (WHEN THE MPLA AND

CUBA MIGHT HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL IN ANGOLA AND BE IN A POSITION TO COMMIT TROOPS TO A NEW VENTURE) WOULD BECOME A REALITY ONLY IF SOUTH AFRICA MISGUIDEDLY IMPOSED AN INTERNAL SOLUTION WHICH THE AFRICAN STATES WOULD REJECT.

D) THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEAVY EXPENDITURES FOR MILITARY BASE INFRA-STRUCTURE SEEMS BASED ON THEIR ASSUMPTION THAT THE NEW NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT WILL REQUEST SOUTH AFRICA'S ASSISTANCE FOR NAMIBIA'S DEFENSE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ASSUMPTIONNIS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE. A MAJORITY-RULED NAMIBIA WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY TO BE MILITANTLY HOSTILE TO SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, IT IS EQUALLY UNLIKELY (EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF AN INTERNAL SOLUTION) TO DESTROY ITS STANDING AS AN INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATE BY REQUESTING SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

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